

Appl. No. 09/997,463
Amdt. dated May 5, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 9, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

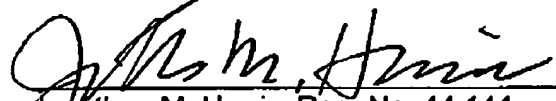
Applicant has received the Office action dated February 9, 2005, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the article entitled "Data Partitioning and Load Balancing in Parallel Disk Systems" by Scheuermann et al. (hereinafter "Scheuermann"). With this Response, Applicant amends claims 1 and 13. Based on the arguments and amendment contained herein, Applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance.

Amended claim 1 requires, among other limitations, that "said file maintenance action comprises at least file defragmentation." Applicant has reviewed the citations provided in the Office action that purportedly relate to defragmentation, but Applicant disagrees that Scheuermann teaches file defragmentation. At least for this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Applicant also amends claim 13 to refer to "file defragmentation." Again, Applicant does not find any teaching in Scheuermann of defragmentation. At least for this reason, claim 13 and all claims dependent thereon are allowable over the cited art.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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